

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – OCTOBER 19, 2005

Chairman Christopher Dollar called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Approval for Minutes from August 2005 Meeting

- The August 2005 Meeting Minutes were adopted without changes.

WHS Game Program Update

- The Deer Research Project at Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area Presentation given by Dr. Jake L. Bowman from the University of Delaware.
 - (a) The Department and several NGO partners have been funding the Deer Research Project at Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area [NRMA].
 - (b) The overall goal of the project is to assess deer population response to human 'pressure'.
 - (c) Deer cause substantial damage to agricultural lands in rural areas. As the deer move into urban settings, the type of damage changes but still exists (e.g. landscapes and vehicle collision).
 - (d) Objective is to develop ways to control these conflicts:
 - (i) Investigate deer movement out of the suburban environment,
 - (ii) Estimate deer population perimeters.
 - (e) Once the data has been collected, the data will be placed into a population module – to review the change in population as a result of the deer hunt on Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area.
 - (f) Fair Hill NRMA has a two-day deer hunt scheduled, which will be held on the first Monday and Tuesday in January.
 - (g) A drop-net was used to capture the deer; data was collected and deer tags were placed on the deer. Several radio collars were also applied to the deer that were captured.
 - (i) Total amount of deer captured as of October 19, 2005 were 158.
 - (ii) Females = 100
 - (iii) Males = 58
 - (iv) Females were targeted primarily because the females control the reproduction rate.
 - (v) Seventy-four deer were radio collared.
 - (h) Most of the fawns (6 to 7 months old) grow fast, so staff decided not to collared them. The collared deer had to be 2 years old or older.
 - (i) Another objective of this study is to measure deer home range during different elements. There is a large deer population on Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area.
 - (j) Habitually, the bucks have the tendency to move around more than does.
 - (k) Dr. Jack Bowman is searching for non-lethal techniques for agricultural purposes as well.
 - (l) The funding sources are MD-DNR, University of Delaware, and the Jack H. Berryman Institute – wildlife damage and wildlife/human conflicts research facility.
 - (m) This study is ongoing for another year.
- Furbearer User Stamp Presentation given by Robert Colona, Furbearer Biologist for the Wildlife and Heritage Service.
 - 1) The Proposed Furbearer Permit Regulations [Attachment A]. Robert Colona gave a synopsis of the furbearer user regulations.
 - 2) There is a need to implement additional regulations for the furbearer trappers. The organized furbearer-user community is supportive of these changes.
 - 3) Commissioner Lamp moved to accept the Proposed Furbearer Permit Regulations. Commissioner Freeland seconded – motion was accepted and approved.
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response Plan, given by Bob Beyer, Associate Director, Game Program.
 - 1) Bob Beyer handed out the Department's CWD Response Plan [Attachment B].
 - 2) CWD Update:
 - (a) Four confirmed cases of CWD have been found in West Virginia.
 - (b) West Virginia has tested an additional 240 deer; three more cases of CWD have been found. The deer with CWD were found in the wild. West Virginia has a large captive deer herds.
 - (c) Maryland will be testing for CWD in every county.
 - (d) Staff members will keep the Commission informed.
 - (e) Information about CWD may be found on the DNR website (www.dnr.state.md.us.)
- Wild Turkey Committee Update was moved to the November 16, 2005 WAC meeting.

Break at 11:00 a.m. and Resume at 11:00 a.m.

Proposed Changes to the Endangered Species List

- Presentation given by Gwen Brewer, Manager, Science Programs, Heritage Program

- The original listing of plants and animals started in the early and mid 1980s.
- Draft Proposed 2005 State Listing Revisions for plants and animals [Attachment C]. This information is also available on The Department's website <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/espaa.asp>. The State Legal Status abbreviations are T-Threatened, E-Endangered, and X-Endangered Extirpated. The information in [Attachment C] helps staff to identify the range of situations that species may encounter.
- The regulations process is done on a two-year cycle; surveys are conducted to validate the need for change in the rank and status codes for plants and animals. The Heritage Program is required to submit the proposed changes to the governors' adjacent states and different types of conservation groups.
- Dr. Brewer explained the definition rank and status codes to the members, which is included in the [Attachment C].
 - 1) There are many variations as to how species are protected.
 - 2) The variations in protection are geared to have a functional environment not a zoo.

WHS Administrative Program Update

- Presentation given by Mark Hoffman, Associate Director, Administration Program.
- Mark Hoffman handed out the Wildlife and Heritage Service Fiscal Year 2007 Request [Attachment D], which is subject to modifications by either Department of Budget Management and/or Legislature.
 - 1) WHS went from 1.3 million dollars of General Funds (GF) to around 80,000 for motor vehicle operations and maintenance.
 - 2) Wildlife Management Areas, wildlife response, and operation are managed by special funds and federal funds despite the fact that these projects benefit all Marylanders beyond hunters.

Maryland Park Service Update

- Stephen D. McCoy, Chief of Resource Interpretation and Education for the Maryland Park Service
- Final stages of the hiring process have been completed. There were internal and external candidates.
- The start date for their training is October 26, 2005.
- Mr. McCoy addressed the Commission concerns about the potential decline in the law enforcement presents and matters.
 - 1) Staff members are trying to improve communication with Natural Resource Police (NRP).
 - 2) Operational Training to focus on Park Service, which would allow Natural Resource Police to focus on law enforcement elements.

Natural Resources Police Update

- Sergeant Kelley Johnson handed out the Natural Resources Police Update from August 13, 2005 through October 1, 2005 [Attachment E].
- A beaver was attacking people in Cecil Co. near a local State Park. Ron Norris, WHS Wildlife Response, responded several times over a busy holiday weekend. Finally WHS and NRP caught the beaver, and the beaver tested positive for rabies. This is a classic example of the type of work staff members do on a regular basis for Maryland constituents with hunter dollars.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update

- Presentation by Kurt Fuchs, Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Representative.
- The Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) County Policies development has started.
- The county policies are scheduled to be available at the December 4th-7th Maryland Farm Bureau Convention in Ocean City.
- Commission members are welcomed to attend.
- The MFB is working with the Maryland Agricultural Statistical Service to have several crop damage questions on the Maryland Agricultural Statistical Survey.
- Maryland has around 12,000 farmers.
- Kurt Fuchs will share the county policies with the Department and Commission.

Old Business

- Commission adopted the Urban Wildlife Committee Operational Guidelines. No official list has been compiled.
 - 1) Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Lamp provided Chairman Chris Dollar some names.
 - 2) Chairman Dollar asked members to submit contact information of interested individuals by e-mail.
 - 3) At the November 16, 2005, the members should be prepared to develop a consensus as to when the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee membership deadline should be.
- Commissioner Adams circulated a document about problem black bears and the use non-lethal techniques [Appendix I] – this is the kind of item that should come to the Commission from the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee.
 - 1) Commissioner Pascal commented that the Commission should approach a few members of the Maryland Delegation to participate in serving on the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee from the beginning.
 - 2) Chairman Dollar and Commissioner Pascal will work on compiling a list delegates that would be interested in becoming a member of the Urban Wildlife Subcommittee.

New Business

- Commissioner Pascal asked that a trophy deer hunt discussion to be added to the November 16, 2005, WAC meeting agenda.
- Commissioner Lamp asked for an update on the mute swan to be added also to the November 16, 2005, WAC meeting agenda.
- Chairman Dollar agreed to have the above items added to the meeting agenda for November 16, 2005.

Adjournment

- Chairman Dollar adjourned meeting at 12:03 P.M. The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, November 16, 2005 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room, Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

Members:	L. Adams, C. Dollar, G. Fratz, W. Freeland, L. Julio, J. Lamp, R. Pascal
Guests:	D. Baker III, R. Coleman, M. Bundt, K. Fuchs, T. Johnson, R. Misiewicz, C. Thomson
Staff:	B. Beyer, S. Bittner, K. Blizzard, G. Brewer, M. Hoffman, D. Hotton, P. Jayne, S. McCoy, P. Peditto, T. Spencer
Absent:	R. Brown, C. Garner, J. Scarborough